IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Please amend claims 1-3 and add new claim 4 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A medical support system comprising:

patient terminals <u>configured to be</u> used individually by a plurality of patients; medical institution terminals <u>configured to be</u> used individually by each of a plurality of medical institutions; and

a management server operated by a data management institution, which are each patient terminal being connected to each other with the medical institution terminals and the management server via a network, the medical institution terminals being connected with the management server via a network,

wherein said management server comprises a medical information storage device for storing medical information of said each patient including medical records, examination results, and medical images, and a medical information control device for controlling [[the]] an input and output of said medical information of each patient into and from said medical information storage device, the medical information including medical records, examination results, and medical images,

wherein said medical information control device performs: is configured to,

(1) an upload request step for, upon receiving a request from said <u>a</u> patient terminal <u>of a first patient among the plurality of patients</u> to upload <u>in said management server said</u> medical information of said <u>first patient managed by said a medical institution among said plurality of medical institutions, in said management server, transmitting transmit upload permission key data for uploading said medical information of said <u>first patient</u> in said management server and a <u>content of said medical information of said first patient upload request content</u> to be uploaded by a <u>patient's the</u> request to said medical institution terminal <u>used by of</u> said requested medical institution;</u>

(2) an upload standby step for, upon receiving said upload permission key data transmitted from said medical institution terminal, authenticating the authenticate validity of said upload permission key data, transmitting transmit to said medical institution terminal a permission response for transmitting said medical information of said first patient to said management server, and deferring said defer upload of said medical information of said first patient; and

(3) an upload execution step for, upon receiving said medical information of said first patient transmitted from said medical institution terminal, storing store said medical information of said first patient in said medical information storage device.

2. (Currently Amended) A medical support system comprising:

patient terminals <u>configured to be</u> used individually by a plurality of patients; medical institution terminals <u>configured to be</u> used individually by a plurality of medical institutions; and

a management server operated by a data management institution, which are each patient terminal being connected to each other with the medical institution terminals and management server via a network, the medical institution terminals being connected with the management server via a network,

wherein said management server comprises a medical information storage device for storing medical information of said each patient including medical records, examination results, and medical images, and a medical information control device for controlling [[the]] an input and output of said medical information of each patient into and from said medical information storage device, the medical information including medical records, examination results, and medical images,

wherein said medical information control device performs: is configured to,

- (1) a download request step for, upon receiving a medical information download request for download downloading and view viewing said medical information of said a first patient among the plurality of patients from said a medical institution terminal used by the of a medical institution among the plurality of medical institutions, transmitting transmit a content of said medical information download request to said a patient terminal used by of said requested first patient;
- (2) a download permission step for, upon receiving a permission response for downloading said medical information of said first patient from said patient terminal, transmitting transmit download permission key data which permits said medical institution of said first patient to download and view said medical information of said first patient to said medical institution terminal; and
- (3) a download execution step for, upon receiving said download permission key data transmitted from said medical institution terminal, authenticating the authenticate validity of said download permission key data and transmitting transmit said medical information of said first patient to said medical institution terminal.

3. (Currently Amended) A medical support system comprising:

patient terminals <u>configured to be</u> used individually by a plurality of patients; medical institution terminals <u>configured to be</u> used individually by a plurality of medical institutions; and

a management server operated by a data management institution, which are each patient terminal being connected to each other with medical institution terminals and management server via a network, the medical institution terminals being the management server via a network,

wherein said management server comprises a medical information storage device for storing medical information of said each patient, including medical records, examination results, and medical images, and a medical information control device for controlling [[the]] an input and output of said medical information of each patient into and from said medical information storage device, the medical information including medical records, examination results, and medical images,

wherein said medical information control device performs: is configured to

- (1) a reference request step for, upon receiving a medical information reference request from a first medical institution terminal of a first medical institution among the plurality of medical institution to allow a second medical institution among the plurality of medical institution, to which said patient is introduced, to download and view said medical information of said a first patient among the plurality of patients, transmitting transmit a content of said medical information reference request to said a patient terminal used by of said requested first patient;
- (2) a reference permission step for, upon receiving a permission response from said patient terminal of said first patient to permit said second medical institution to download and view said medical information of said first patient, transmitting transmit download permission key data to permit said second medical institution to download and view said medical information of said first patient to said second medical institution terminal; and
- (3) a reference execution step for, upon receiving said download permission key data transmitted from said second medical institution terminal, authenticating the authenticate validity of said download permission key data and transmitting said medical information to said a second medical institution terminal of said second medical institution.

- 4. (New) A medical support method in a management server, said data management institution connected via a network to a patient terminal of a patient, a first medical institution terminal of a first medical institution, and a second medical institution terminal of a second medical institution respectively, wherein said management server comprises a medical information storage device for storing medical information of the patient and a medical information control device for controlling an input and output of said medical information into and from said medical information storage device, the medical information including medical records, examination results, and medical images, the method comprising the steps of
 - (1) a reference request step for, upon receiving a medical information reference request from said first medical institution terminal to allow said second medical institution, to which said patient is introduced, to download and view said medical information of said patient, with said medical information control device, transmitting a content of said medical information reference request to said patient terminal of said patient;
 - (2) a reference permission step for, upon receiving a permission response from said patient terminal to permit said second medical institution to download and view said medical information, with said medical information control device, transmitting download permission key data to permit said second medical institution to download and view said medical information to said second medical institution terminal; and
 - (3) a reference execution step for, upon receiving said download permission key data transmitted from said second medical institution terminal, with said medical information control device, authenticating validity of said download permission key data and transmitting said medical information to said second medical institution terminal.